

# City of Greenbelt

---

Date: May 16, 2016  
To: Mike McLaughlin *MM*  
From: Dale Worley  
Re: Camera History

Over the past 9 years, our City's camera system has grown from an initial installation of 4 cameras to 40 cameras. This document contains a brief history of the evolution of our City's camera system and the vendors we have used.

Several City buildings have camera equipment that pre-date this history including the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center, Police, Public Works and Community Center. The Aquatic and Fitness Center and Police systems were incorporated into our camera system fairly early in this evolution.

The initial camera installation in the Roosevelt Center occurred nearly 9 years ago. The vendor used for this work was Avrio RMS. Avrio installed 3 Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras in the Center along with one fixed camera. Avrio installed a wireless network to capture the video and transmit it to the Municipal Building. Avrio also installed a server in IT to manage and record the video captured by the cameras. The software used to manage and record the cameras is from ONSSI and is widely known and used in the industry.

Subsequent additions to the camera system:

- Police – Avrio connected all 20 of the cameras (excluding interview rooms) via the City network to the Municipal Building.
- Spellman Overpass – Avrio installed 2 PTZ cameras at the Spellman Overpass. The East camera connects wirelessly to the West camera where both signals are transmitted via a Comcast internet connection to the Municipal Building.
- GAFC – Avrio installed 5 new cameras to capture pool deck areas and lobby areas. Along with existing cameras already in place, they are transmitted via the City network to the Municipal Building.
- Springhill Lake Recreation Center – Avrio installed 2 PTZ cameras on the exterior of the building and are connected via the City network to the Municipal Building.
- Springhill Lake Elementary – Avrio installed a PTZ camera near the call box at the elementary school. This camera wirelessly connects to the top of the school where it is then connected to the school's network and transmitted via the i-Net to the Municipal Building.

As a City we chose not to purchase Avrio's maintenance plan each year because it was expensive (\$30K+) and it only covered hours, not any hardware. At the time our annual repair costs (including hardware) were less than \$5k nearly every year. However, ongoing dealings with Avrio became difficult. Getting quotes for new work, getting service on existing systems, showing up when they said they would show up. It always felt like they were too busy with other clients to be bothered with us.

The work at SHL Elementary was especially tedious and resulted in higher equipment costs as well as staff time and several months of waiting. This experience, along with past experiences, led me to seek out another vendor. Since we were already using ONSSI software, I searched their website for local companies that they recommended using for their software. Convergent Technologies was listed for our area and they have an office in Lanham. We used Convergent for a couple of repair issues on cameras and they did an acceptable job. As part of our server upgrade process, we needed to upgrade and consolidate our existing camera servers onto new hardware and a new operating system. We contracted with Convergent to upgrade our ONSSI software onto a new server and migrate our cameras to the new server. This work was completed in November 2015. This led to using them for the Center camera issues we have today and the proposal from them to replace our old PTZ cameras with fixed 180 degree cameras.

Please let me know if you have any questions.